

REMARKS

The Official Action of April 15, 2003, closing prosecution in accordance with *Ex parte Quayle*, has been carefully reviewed.

The claims in the application remain as claims 1-8, and these have all been allowed. Applicants understand that these claims are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103. Applicants now request formal allowance.

The PTO says that a certified copy of the priority document has not been received. As the present application is the U.S. national phase of a PCT application, a copy of the priority application should have been received from the International Bureau. Nevertheless, applicants filed a certified copy of the priority application on May 22, 2003. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the PTO to acknowledge receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119.

As regards paragraph 3B of the Official Action, applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on March 26, 2003. As citation AF, applicants filed an Abstract of a Japanese document 74807. Applicants respectfully request

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consideration of the documents cited in the IDS filed March 26, 2003.

Fig. 12 of applicants' drawings has been criticized as not containing the legend "Prior Art". Applicants agree to provide such an indication on Fig. 12, and a proposed drawing correction is attached hereto as a sketch marked in red ink. Upon approval and allowance, a new sheet of formal drawing will be submitted.

The examiner has noticed certain minor informalities in applicants' specification, and has consequently required correction. Appropriate amendments are presented above. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The examiner has similarly criticized applicants' Abstract and has required correction. A corrected Abstract is presented above. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The examiner has objected to the phrase "or the like" in claim 5 and the numbers provided in claims 6 and 7. In deference to the examiner's views, the numbers provided in claims 6 and 7 have been deleted above. The phrase "or the like" has been deleted from claim 5 as being inconsistent with U.S. practice. These cosmetic amendments are not "narrowing"

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amendments because the scope of the claims has not been reduced.


Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

Applicants believe that all issues have been resolved. Applicants accordingly respectfully request favorable consideration and early formal allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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